

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

135th Street Elementary School Auditorium

801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Marvin Bell (District 6); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); Kandee Lewis (Youth Representative); Leo Youngblood (At-Large Representative, and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public Comment:** District 3 Representative Rey Paduani shared information about the Rosecrans Park Recreation Center renovation. At a cost of \$35 million, the renovation is in Phase 2 and due to be completed by May, 2013. Two baseball diamonds will be completed.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins reported that she has received phone calls from residents reporting that someone at 13015 S. Hoover Street is repairing cars and dumping used oil down the storm drain. It was decided that the issue should go on the next agenda so that a letter can be written.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez brought a flyer with details of how to clearly describe suspect body build, clothing, and other characteristics when reporting to the LAPD. Officer Valdez also reminded everyone of “National Night Out” which is a nation-wide recognition of the community service of the police force on Tuesday, August 7. The LAPD Southeast Division event will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 145 W. 108th Street.

2) **Appointment of an additional member to the Ad Hoc Election Committee:** Rosalie informed the Board of an additional person who wishes to serve on the Ad Hoc Election Committee. Joan Jacobs moved to appoint Bettye Watson to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. Delores Allmond seconded the motion, and the motion passed 10-0.

3) **Appointment of new members to the Outreach Committee:** Llewyn Fowlkes moved to appoint Ron Alcaraz and Delores Allmond to the Outreach Committee. Gloria Christmas seconded the motion, and the motion passed 10-0.

4) **Walk for Life and Health Fair on Saturday, August 11 at Magic Johnson Park and other activities and services of People for Community Improvement, 13008 S. Figueroa Street:** People for Community Improvement representative Kenneth Jones discussed the upcoming “Walk for Life” sponsored by PCI jointly with the L.A. Sheriff’s Dept. The event is on Saturday, August 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Magic Johnson Park, 905 E. El Segundo Blvd. Betty Hawkins and Rosalie visited the PCI offices and learned more about their twice monthly food distributions and other social services, including gang intervention work. Mr. Jones said that there will be a shuttle bus for those unable to walk very far on the day of the “Walk for Life,” which begins at Helen Keller Park, 1045 W. 126th Street at El Segundo, stops at Athens Park, 12806 S. Broadway, and concludes at Magic Johnson Park. Phone contact: (323) 303-3339.

(Kandee Lewis, Leo Youngblood, and Eva Cooper arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

5) **Approval of the June 12 Board Minutes:** Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and it was passed 13-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

6) **Treasurer’s Report, including approval of \$330 to support the Officer Appreciation luncheon in District 4 in August; \$1,000 in support of National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7; and \$1,500 to redesign and upgrade the HGNNC webpage:** Joan Jacobs gave the Treasurer’s Report as follows: Page 1 – p-card statement of June 21, 2012, Page 2 - Expenditure Details for May 2012, totaling \$2,286.18; Page 3- Expenditure Details for June of \$1,039.31, as far as currently known; Page 4 - the approved budget for the coming fiscal year 2012-2013. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and the motion was passed 13-0 to approve the Treasurer’s report.

After brief discussion, Marvin Bell moved that the Board approve \$330 to go towards supporting the annual Officer Appreciation Luncheon in District 4, which will be held at the home of Catherine Walker, 709 W. 139th Street on Mon. August 20 at 12 noon. Rey Paduani seconded the motion and it passed 13-0.

Karen Lawrence, Chairperson for National Night Out for the Southeast Police Station, explained why Southeast Division was requesting the \$1,000 donation to buy T-shirts for the event. As Officer Valdez had mentioned, the date is Tues. August 7, from 3 to 8 p.m. Last year there were 80 vendors and 1,000 people in attendance, she said. The 15th District Councilmember Joe Buscaino will be present at some point Leo Youngblood moved that the Board approve up to \$1,000 to pay for some of the T-shirts. Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and the motion passed 13-0.

In order to support more effective outreach for the HGNNC and after Joan Jacobs and Rosalie Preston attended the Leadership Academy on April 19 with a segment on websites, it seems time to redesign the HGNNC webpage to include the ability to post agendas and flyers for events ourselves. There was discussion of what has been done already in the search for a company to do this, including asking our current vendor Velarium. Current estimates range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for this work. There was discussion about whether to get more estimates first. Neodros Bridgeforth moved that the Board approve up to \$1,500 toward the funding of the HGNNC webpage redesign, pending the determination of a suitable person / party to do this. Delores Allmond seconded the motion, and the motion passed 13 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstaining.

7) Approval of a letter to the Zoning Administrator in regard to violations of the conditional use permit for VN Liquor, 15920 S. Vermont Avenue: After receiving a complaint, LAPD conducted an undercover investigation on June 13 and found two violations of the conditional use permit for VN Liquor in District 2. Its continued operation in a residential zone was conditional on its remaining a neighborhood market with incidental liquor sales. However, Board member Neodros Bridgeforth visited recently to buy bread and milk and found none, only lots of sodas, cookies, chips and other snacks, plus a wall of hard liquor and refrigerated cases of wine and beer. Rosalie Preston also visited after its recent re-opening and found no fruits, vegetables, meat, or milk. In excess of 1/3 of the window area of the store is covered with advertisements for liquor. LAPD also found that no electronic equipment for checking age of buyers of alcohol was in place. Leo Youngblood moved, Joan Jacobs seconded, and it was passed 13-0 to write a letter to the Zoning Administrator about the condition use permit in violations by VN Market / Liquor.

8) Saturday October 20 Board Election report: A three-page timeline of Election activities, deadlines, and costs as prepared by the Outreach Committee was distributed to the Board members. Outreach efforts will include creating a Facebook page, using flyers at meetings and community sites. Rashad Rucker, Independent Election Administrator for the Harbor Region (Region 12), introduced himself and spoke briefly. He explained that offering some type of free food and/or merchant coupons at the election site could not directly be conditional on voting and needs to be at least 100 feet away from the polling area. Candidates for Harbor Gateway North Board seats can file now and until Thurs. September 20 at 5 p.m.

Rashad distributed a flyer announcing a “Leadership Academy Workshop” in conjunction with the elections on Thursday, July 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Council District 15 Field Office, 10221 Compton Ave. in Watts. Another workshop which includes the “General Manager’s Roundtable” is scheduled for Sat. July 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the South Seas House, 2301 W. 24th Street. “Print Campaigns” and “Social Media” as communication tools will be topics. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment’s General Manager, BongHwan Kim will host the GM’s Roundtable on July 14 and take on the topic of connecting with City Hall and monitoring the delivery of City services. Rashad is also chairing a joint South L.A. Outreach committee meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at 8475 S. Vermont. Contact Rashad at rashad@empowerla.org.

9) Update on planning issues, including the June 14 hearing on 17236 S. Hoover Street (CPC-2009-3580-GPA-ZC); Gateway Crossroads Center at 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. parking and traffic issues; and January opening of the Environmental Charter Middle School: Twenty-five residents from the Merit Tract were present at the June 14 City Planning Commission hearing which voted to deny the request for a zone change to RD-6 which would have allowed the 24 small-lot homes to be built. Rosalie said that the applicant’s representative and Alison Becker of Councilman Joe Buscaino’s office were also present.

The new traffic signal at the north jog of Orchard Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. seems to have helped with traffic issues related to the U.E.I. College and La Caze Development. Crosswalks and red curb are also installed at that intersection. Ross Dress-for-Less is opening in October. Under the U.E.I. building, a Subway, Panda Express and several other small retail units will be opening, along with a Farmer Boys Restaurant on the southeast corner of the property, next to the 110 Freeway off ramp. Alison Becker of Councilman Buscaino’s office pointed out that La Caze will need a conditional use permit to open food-selling stores because their conditional use permit is for retail in an industrial zone.

The Environmental Charter School originally scheduled to open in the fall has experienced a delay in obtaining permits and so now plans to open in January.

It was asked by Leo Youngblood that possible uses for the property at 705 W. El Segundo Blvd. in District 5 be placed on a future Planning and Land Use Committee and then Board agenda. He has been contacted by the owner, Mike Amidi.

10) **Review of July 24 General Membership meeting agenda:** A copy of the proposed agenda was distributed to Board members. The City Planning Committee is scheduled to present and distribute a survey on the new Mobility Element of the City's General Plan. Suggestions were made concerning the wording of the flyer to so that more stakeholders will understand the topic and therefore will want to attend the meeting.

11) **Announcements:** The new west building of the 135th street School will be dedicated on Mon. August 13 at 12:30 p.m. and the Board is invited to attend. Books which the HGNNC donated to the new school library in that building will have a bookplate acknowledging the support of the HGNNC.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell
(Kelly Services)